

Context Sensitive Solutions

Inherent in Caltrans' mission to increase mobility across California is the need for context sensitive solutions that consider community -sensitive approaches to transportation decision-making. In fact, the Department has adopted a number of policies to encourage all of the appropriate functional disciplines to respond to community values.

Most recently the Director released his policy on **Context Sensitive Solutions**-- a Department-wide effort to create an environment in which innovative actions, such as context sensitive solutions, can flourish.

The **Directive on Accommodating Non-Motorized Travel** is a another policy effort in which the Department has attempted to create an environment for innovative actions—in this case with alternative transportation. This policy directs that the Department fully consider the needs of non-motorized travelers (including pedestrians, bicyclists and persons with disabilities) in all planning, maintenance, operations and project development activities and products.

In one notable attempt to implement policies on Context Sensitive Solutions, the Department recently published a landmark publication on **Main Streets: Flexibility in Design and Operations**. This joint effort of Traffic Operations, Design, and Planning is an initial attempt to provide implementation guidance, identifying concepts that might be compatible with community values while assuring safe and efficient operations for vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists and highway workers.

The Office of Community Planning has compiled a **California Mainstreet Listing** of conventional state highways that serve as the mainstreet, gateway or commercial strip of communities across California. The listing provides a database of potential opportunities for accommodating a community's values when discussing the implementation of the **Main Streets: Flexibility in Design and Operations** for projects on the appropriate conventional highways.

This **California Mainstreet Listing** is made available to both Department staff and communities at large to encourage interaction and partnerships. This listing can also be used as a tool to identify opportunities to enhance more **livable communities** while improving mobility and safety efforts along transportation corridors. If you would like to talk with a Department representative regarding a state highway that runs through your community, please refer to the **Headquarters Staff Contact List** for the appropriate District Liaison contact.

We would like to keep this listing as complete, current and accurate as possible. If you know of additional State Highways that serve as a Mainstreets and would like to see them added to this list, please contact **Del Deletetsky**.